



NEWS RELEASE

EL PASO BORDER PATROL SECTOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EI PASO SECTOR AGENTS CONDUCT ANNUAL SWIFT WATER RESCUE TRAINING

Border Patrol agents from the El Paso Sector conducted swift-water rescue training today along the American Canal as part of their annual practice. The training is designed to reinforce various rescue methods and to teach agents about swift-water behavior. The training involved lectures, water safety videos, and hands on demonstration in the use of life-saving equipment.

The training program is an extension of the Border Safety Initiative (BSI), which is a national initiative that promotes bilateral cooperation among INS and its Mexican counterparts to help reduce deaths and injuries of undocumented immigrants attempting to enter the United States during peak danger periods.

INS first introduced the Border Safety Initiative in 1998 in an effort to help reduce dangers along the international boundary for undocumented immigrants. Since that time, INS and Border Patrol has stepped up its safety campaign by distributing public service announcements and posters in Mexico, conducting widespread water safety training for Border Patrol agents, establishing water rescue stations, and erecting warning signs along the border in cooperation with the Mexican Government.

The implementation of these joint preventive activities represents the interest of authorities on both sides of the border in an effort to protect lives of immigrants who try to cross into the U.S. in high-risk areas. It also reflects the level of cooperation among the U.S. Border Patrol and the Mexican Consulate. The campaign also focuses on a bilateral approach to warning immigrants about the reckless practices of coyotes, or smugglers who smuggle immigrants into the U.S. for profit.

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